

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An open package test fixture for testing the seal strength of flexible packages comprising:

upper and lower a pair of clamping jaws, wherein each of said upper clamping jaw and said lower clamping jaw further comprise a face region, and said face region of at least one of said clamping jaws further comprises a leak proof crushable material;

a pressure supply/ sensing nozzle;

a pair of actuators for initiating a clamping force; and

an actuator ~~to~~ for releasing the clamping force.

2. (Cancelled) The open package test fixture of claim 1 wherein said pair of clamping jaws comprises an upper clamping jaw and a lower clamping jaw.

3. (Cancelled) The open package test fixture of claim 2 wherein each of said upper clamping jaw and said lower clamping jaw further comprise a face region, and said face region of at least one of said clamping jaws further comprises a leak proof crushable material.

4. (Currently amended) The open package test fixture of claim 2 1 wherein said pressure supply/sensing nozzle is located between said upper clamping jaw and said lower clamping jaw.

5. (Currently amended) The open package test fixture of claim 2 1 wherein said upper clamping jaw further comprises an upper clamping jaw mating surface and said lower clamping jaw further comprises a lower clamping jaw mating surface.

6. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 5 wherein said upper clamping jaw mating surface and said lower clamping jaw mating surface are positioned to accommodate said pressure supply/sensing nozzle located there between.

7. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a fixture plate body having a fixture plate base.

8. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 7 wherein said fixture plate base has a first side and a second side, and said upper clamping jaw and said lower clamping jaw are located between said first side of said fixture plate body and said second side of said fixture plate body .

9. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 8 wherein said pair of actuators further comprises a first anti-tie down safety actuator and a second anti-tie down safety actuator, wherein said first anti-tie down safety actuator is located proximate to said first side of said fixture base plate, and said second anti-tie down safety actuator is located proximate to said second side of said fixture base plate.

10. (Currently amended) The open package test fixture of claim 9, wherein said ~~device~~ open package test fixture is actuated by pressing the said first anti-tie down safety actuator and said second anti-tie down safety actuator concurrently.

11. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a precision nozzle orientation guide, wherein said supply/sensing nozzle is affixed to said open package test fixture using said precision nozzle orientation guide to ensure proper alignment and a leakproof seal when mated together.

12. (Currently amended) The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a barrier for preventing a user from inserting his fingers between the clamping jaws when actuating ~~the clamping mechanism~~ said open package test fixture.

13. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a high pressure gas supply.

14. (Currently amended) An open package test fixture for testing the seal strength of flexible packages comprising:

- a pair of clamping jaws having mating surfaces;
- a crushable material attached to said jaws;
- a pressure supply/ sensing nozzle;
- a precision nozzle orientation guide;
- a pair of actuators for initiating a clamping force;
- an actuator to releasing the clamping force; and
- a barrier to prevent insertion of fingers into ~~clamps~~ said jaws while actuating the clamping force.

15. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 14 further comprising a force generating means.

16. (Previously presented) The open package test fixture of claim 15 wherein said force generating means comprises a high pressure gas supply.